

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, July 3. 1708.

I Have always thought it the safest and the best Method in the World, to set the Affairs of our Enemies in a true Light, and our own too; if at any time our own will not bear a clear View, yet still the Enemies will always bear it; for if their Affairs are in a great or threatening Posture, there are many Uses to be made of that besides discouraging us; nay, he that pretends to give a true Account of the Strength of the Enemy, be it never so great, is to discourage and damp our Preparations, dishearten our Men from Fighting, and disorder our People, makes the worst ill-natur'd Satyr upon his Country, that it is possible to write.

'Tis true, *there are Disappointments abroad*, and much might be said, to tell the

World what Cause we have to regret those Disappointments, and to show what a Hardship it is, upon *Britain and Holland*, that their Preparations which are always forward and ready, do not meet with a like Zeal from all their Allies; but still this is Fact, that our printed Papers boast all the Winter long of the Forwardness of our Friends, and the Backwardness of the Enemies, raising our Expectations up to Wonders and Impossibilities, adds mightily to our National Discouragements, and is the Foundation of most of our Discontents and Complaints — For what can People expect, when they have been told over and over, what mighty Readiness the Confederates are in every where, how their Army in *Catalonia* shall act defensively, and the

the Army on the *Rhine* be early in the Field, and the Duke of *Savoy* be entering *Dauphiné* with the first; but that these Things are ready to be done? And when they find *July* beginning, before these People either in *Germany* or *Savoy* are in the Field, then out comes our Repining, our Murmurings, and the Spirit of Complaining fills all our Streets.

'Tis Nonsense to tell People of the Snow on the Mountains, that makes the Passes into *Dauphiné* impracticable, or of Answers and Reasons, and unforeseen Accidents, but we were told all was ready, we were told the Duke of *Savoy* would be at the Head of his Army by Beginning of *May*, that the *Germans* were marched to joyn him, &c. that the Elector of *Hannover* would be in the Field the 10th of *May*, and the like.

Alas, Gentlemen, have you been told so! why it has been none of the Duke of *Savoy's* Fault, or the Elector of *Hannover's* Fault, that you have been told so, but your News-mongers, your foreign printed Forgeries, and your home printed Forgeries; and who are to blame, that you now see Cause to be ashamed of your Schemes—And really, these People that do thus, are not only Tools, whether voluntary or no I do not determine, to the Party that upbraid us, but they are Tools to our own Follies, for our credulous forward Temper, apt to flatter our selves with the vain imaginary Ideas of Victory and Conquest, shuts our Eyes to the Power and the Preparations of our Enemies, and engages us in a double Delusion, first to imagine our selves invulnerable, sure of mighty things, all in a Readiness, and nothing to do but to conquer; and then to call all the Preparations of the Enemy mean, weak, backward, and the like; their's all Disappointment, Want of Men, Want of Money, Want of Horses, Want of every thing.

Well that we reckon without our Host, and then comes the Campaign, and there we get Spectacles, and buy them with our dear Experience; For behold, the unprepared *French* are always ready before us; their Cavalry that had no Horses are all mounted; and in the Field their Officers that had no Equipages have passed in Re-

view; their Captains that had no Levy Money have fill'd up their Companies, and the first thing we find in our News-Papers is an Account, that the *French* are encamp'd at our Teeth, and are superiour in Number.

Now, Gentlemen, it is not any Surprise to those that understand any thing, to find the *French*, who are the most vigilant and diligent People in the World, master by their Application insuperable Difficulties, and be before us in Time, beyond us in Number, and the like; but the Surprise is to have this so, when all the Winter our People have been amused with fine Stories of quite another kind, and made believe, that the *French* could not look you in the Face, could not show themselves in the Field again, any how but upon the *Defensive*, and that they must certainly be reduced to the Necessity of accepting all the hardest Conditions of Peace, you could impose upon them.

Then on the other side, the mighty ready Confederates, what Figure do they make? How often have we been told, that the Treaty with King *Augustus* for 3000 *Saxon* Horse was ended, to day it was almost finished, to morrow as good as adjust'd; the Duke of *Marlborough* had done it all, but a few Trifles which the Emperor was to agree to, and there was no Question, but his Imperial Majesty would grant them: Then Prince *Eugene* he calls at *Dresden*, and he removes those Obstacles, and it was as good as adjust'd, or in *English*, and they had as good have told us so at first, The Matter is all finish'd, and the Confederates are to have the 3000 Horse, there is nothing wanting but a Trifle call'd MONEY to pay for them; for after all this finishing and adjusting, behold, the *Saxon* Cavalry are still in their Quarters, and no Body can tell, whether you shall yet have them or no; I had almost said, no Body can tell whether your Enemies shall get them or no; for if a Rumour, that I have heard, should have any thing in it, (viz.) that the Elector of *Bavaria* is treating with King *Augustus* to give him the *Upper Palatinate*, on Condition of assisting him with all his Forces to recover his Country,

Country, the Emperor may have Leisure enough to repent the not complying with the Saxons Demands; but I hope that Report is groundless.

Well, come we next to the *Rhine*; how often have we seen it in Print, that the Emperor has actually granted to the Elector *Palatine* the Investiture of the *Upper Palatinate* — And that on the Consideration, his Electoral Highness had order'd his Troops to be in a Readiness to march, and yet at last did not the Generosity and Zeal of that Prince exert it self out of the common Road of *German Forwardness*, and cause his Troops to march without it; must not the Confederates want 11000 Men in their Army on the *Moselle*?

How long have the *Danes* in *Bavaria* lain *Idle* for their Pay, instead of preventing the *Hungarians*; and the quiet and peaceable Subjects of *Moravia* and *Austria* been expos'd to the Ravages of the barbarous *Heydukes* and *Rabble* of the *Hungarians* for Want of their Assistance?

How long has the Reinforcements to King *Charles III.* in *Catalognia* been kept back, which have in every Days Courants and public Prints been ready to be shipp'd off.

Thus we are amused with senseless and improbable Appearances of things; and this added to the real Disadvantage of Things, doubles our Disappointment; and here's the Spring of much of our Discontent, here our Speech-makers begin their melancholly Dirges, and sing the Requiems of our Fortunes; whereas if we would make right Judgments of Things, if our Expectations were less extravagant, so would be our Apprehensions.

And yet after all, will you be pleas'd to have Patience? O that Cardinal Vertue, that Sovereign Physick, tho' the Learned say, that when forcibly apply'd, two Drams of it is a Vomit for a Dog; yet taken voluntarily, and by a calm Infusion, it is the best Restorative for a Nation to bring it to its Politick Sences, that I know in the World; will you then have but Patience, and you shall have Victory, and all your honest and reasonable Expectations shall be answer'd; if any Man come to me as their Doctor, and enquire how much of this Physick they must take at a time, and how long they must continue the Application; I shall tell them, When they bring me my Fee I shall descend to Particulars.

MISCELLANEA.

IN our last we gave you the Act of the General Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, for a Day of Thanksgiving for the Deliverance from the *French* and *Jacobite* Invasion. Here follows the Queen's Proclamation, which according to the Constitution of that Church is always subsequent to the Act of the Church; National Fasts being first appointed by the Church, and then Application being made for the Civil Sanction, the Government grants a Proclamation referring to the said Act of Assembly; and this Publication of it again is as much to acquaint you with the said Method and Order of things, as any thing else.

I shall only add, that this Thanksgiving was observ'd with the same Performance in

the Churches, both Morning and Afternoon, as on the Lord's Day, and very little less without; the Shops being all shut close up, and the whole Day set a-part to the several Duties express'd in the Proclamation.

A PROCLAMATION for a Solemn National Thanksgiv- ing.

ANNE by the Grace of GOD, Queen of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith; To

Masters of our Privy Council, Messengers at Arms, Our Sheriffs in that Part, Conjunctly and Severally, Specially constitute,

constitute, Greeting, Forasmuchas, the Late General Assembly of the Kirk of Scotland, taking to their serious Consideration, the great and wonderful Deliverance it hath pleased Almighty GOD in His Divine Goodness to shew towards Us and Our People in this Land in particular, from a threaten'd Invasion of cruel Enemies; Have therefore, and for the other Causes contained in their Act for that Effect, the Xth to a point a Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer to be made to GOD over all Scotland, and have apply'd to us for Interposing our Royal Authority for our due and punctual Observance thereof. Therefore, We with the Advice of the Lords of our Privy Council, have approv'd, and hereby approve and ratify the said Appointment, and strictly command and ordain a Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer to GOD, to be Orderly and Religiously kept and observed throughout all Scotland, by all Ministers, Preachers, and others our good and loving Subjects upon the third Day of June next to come, and that the said Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer be solemnly and devoutly kept and observed, upon the Occasion, and for the Causes and Ends mention'd in the Act of the said Late General Assembly, the Double whereof is hereto subjoin'd, and appointed to be herewith printed and published, and thus for the great and signal Deliverance it hath pleased GOD to shew to Us and Our People, from the usurping Power of a cruel and bloody Enemy. Thus it may please the Divine Majesty as preserve our Royal Person and Government, from all secret and open Attempts that may be made against them, and give Success to Us and our Allies Arms by Sea and Land, and bring those Wars to a happy and lasting Peace: That He would send in and continue fair and seasonable Weather, that the Year may be cramm'd with his Blessing; Certifying all such as shall despise or neglect to observe this so necessary a Duty as before appointed, they shall be liable to our highest Displeasure, and the Pains of Law due in such Cases infli'd upon the Contraveners accordingly. **OUR WILL IS HEREOFRE, And We charge You,** that in ancient this our Letters seal'd, ye past to the Market Cross of Edinburgh, and at other Places needful, and there in Our Name and Authority, make Publication hereof that none pretend Ignorance, and ordains our Solicitors to cause send printed Copies thereof to the Sheriffs of the several Shires, Stewarts of the Stewarries, and Bailies of Regalities, and their Clerks, whom we ordain to see the same published, and appoints them to send Doubles thereof to the several Parish Kirks within their Bounds, that upon the LORD's Day immediately preceeding the said Day above-mention'd, The same may be published and read by them from their Pulpits, immediately after Divine Service, and ordains these Presents to be printed.

Given under our Signet at Edinburgh the Twenty Ninth Day of April, and of our Reign the Seventh Year. 1708.

Ex Deliberatione Dominorum Secreti Concilii.
RO. FORBES, Cls. Sti. Concilii.

ADVERTISEMENT.

For the Payment of King William, King James, and King Charles's Debts.

Those who have Met, do Resolve to Proceed by the Method Propos'd, which they hope cannot fail of Success, if not baffled by delay of the Persons concern'd; to unite their Interest. They that do not meet and encourage the Proceedings, may never expect another such Opportunity.

There is much work to do before the sitting of the Parliament, and none can be in disburse above one Shilling on a hundred Pounds to try the Issue.

They meet at the House on the Right hand going up to the Parliament House in Old Pallace Yard, Westminster, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Frydays.

Thomas Pritchard, at the Saracens-Head in Little Carter Lane, near St. Paul's, London; having a Son who had a very bad Rupture, and applying to Mr. Buxton, at the Golden Ball in Prescot-street in Goodman's-Fields, London, He perform'd the Cure in four Days to my great Surprise, and my Son has remain'd well ever since.

This is to give Notice, that I Richard Baker, of Lawrence-Polney's Lane, Cannonstreet, London; having had a Rupture for about fifty Years; at last I apply'd may self to the late Mr. Christopher Buxton, at the Golden Ball by the Tavern in Prescot-street in Goodman's-Fields; who, by his ingenious Invention of Spring-Trusses and Rupture Spirits, with the Blessing of GOD, made a perfect Cure in about eight Months, and I have been perfectly well ever since, which is about four or five Years.

NOTE, His Son P. Buxton lives at the same Place as above-mention'd, and carries on the same Business, as his Father did; having been by him thoroughly Instructed therein.